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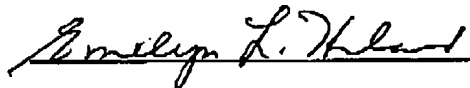
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Number of Pages Including this Page: 6

- 1) Response - 1 copy - 5 pages
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Inventor(s): Doyle et al.

S.N.: 09/607,240

Filed: June 30, 2000

Case: 8147

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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Case Docket No. 8147

## In the Application of

Inventor(s): MATTHEW JOSEPH DOYLE, ET AL.

Serial No. : 09/607,240

Date Filed: June 30, 2000

Title: PROMOTING WHOLE BODY HEALTH

Group Art Unit: 1644

Examiner: A. DeCloux

Confirmation No. 8182

RESPONSE

BOX AF

THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

Washington D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the final Office Action dated October 10, 2002 and having a shortened statutory period for reply of three months thereafter, please consider the remarks filed herein. This response is being filed within two months of the mailing date of the final Office Action and no extension fees are believed to be due.

REMARKS

Method Claims 5-9 remain pending in the application. The present invention as claimed is specific to a method for promoting whole body health or overall systemic health. The method involves topically administering a composition comprising an antimicrobial agent, optionally with an additional therapeutic agent such as a H2 antagonist, to the oral cavity as opposed to systemic administration. The present claims are based on Applicants' discovery of a new use for a method of treatment of the oral cavity. Specifically, Applicants have discovered that topical administration to the oral cavity of compositions comprising an antimicrobial agent is beneficial in promoting systemic health in addition to treating or preventing bacteria-mediated oral cavity conditions. In particular, the present method effectively decreases etiologic factors that contribute to development of certain systemic diseases such as heart disease. By decreasing the etiologic factors for a systemic disease, the risk of developing such a disease is also decreased leading to better overall health for the subject.

Claims drawn to nonelected subject matter that have been withdrawn for consideration at this time will be pursued in a divisional application.